
NEWS From:

Congressman Mike Honda

15th District - CALIFORNIA



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Rep. Honda Delivers \$46 Million in Transportation Projects ***BART to San José Shielded from New FTA Ratings Rules***

Washington, DC – US Rep. **Mike Honda** (D-San José) today hailed the final passage of the \$286.4 billion federal highway bill, legislation that includes \$46 million for Honda-sponsored road and transit projects throughout Silicon Valley, as well as a key provision championed by Honda that exempts the BART extension to San José from a controversial new federal ratings process and shields the high-profile rail extension from a range of negative impacts.

As a member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Congressman Honda was closely involved in the passage of HR 3, the “Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users” (SAFETEA-LU). The full House of Representatives passed HR 3 by a vote of 412-8.

The exemption for the BART extension to Santa Clara County was critical, Honda noted, as an earlier draft of HR 3 exposed the project to a new Federal Transit Administration (FTA) project rating process that would unfairly impose a new standard on the BART plan. Working with Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and his Santa Clara County colleagues, Honda prevailed upon key legislators to exempt the BART project from the new FTA ratings process. This exemption was included in the final version of HR 3.

“Silicon Valley’s population continues to grow and serve as the workforce for the nation’s leading base of innovation, and the authorization for the BART extension to Santa Clara County represents a milestone in our work to end bottlenecks in the Bay Area,” said Rep. Honda, who sits on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. “By exempting the BART to Santa Clara County extension from the new FTA rules, we have given the project added momentum and better chances for full federal partnership.”

Within HR 3, Honda secured a total of \$46 million for the following Santa Clara County transportation priorities:

- \$11.12 million to reconfigure intersection at Highways 152 and 156 in Santa Clara County;

- \$9.6 million to modify I-880 & Stevens Creek Boulevard Interchange to ease traffic congestion in San Jose
- \$8 million to reconstruct I-880 & Coleman Avenue Interchange & implement other I-880 Corridor operational improvements in Santa Clara County;
- \$6.4 million to reconstruct the Silicon Valley Transportation Incident Management Center in San Jose;
- \$6.4 million to construct Guadalupe River Trail from I-880 to Highway 237 in Santa Clara County;
- \$2 million to complete the Coyote Creek Trail from Story Road to Montague Expressway in San Jose;
- \$1.28 million to add turn lane and adaptive traffic control system at intersection of San Tomas Expressway and Hamilton Avenue in Campbell;
- \$800,000 to construct Alviso Bay Trail from Gold Street in historic Alviso to San Tomas Aquino Creek in San Jose; and
- \$400,000 to acquire lands adjacent to US 101 as part of Southern Santa Clara County Wildlife Corridor Protection and Scenic Enhancement Project.

According to San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales, Honda's leadership was essential for securing federal support for San Jose and Silicon Valley transportation needs.

"Congressman Honda has earned a tremendous 'thank you' from the people and employers of San José," said Gonzales. "His strong efforts to secure federal funding to improve the roads and transit systems of Silicon Valley also bring us a step closer to extending BART to our region, which will benefit our local quality of life and maintain our economic competitiveness."

"The long journey to a new highway bill is finally over, and Silicon Valley has emerged as a big winner in the struggle to bring badly needed federal dollars back to California for highway and transit projects," Honda said. "This is good news for California, and very good news for Santa Clara County."

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